

The Punta Gorda Herald

PUNTA GORDA — In Tropical Southwest Florida, a Seaport on the Famous Charlotte Harbor — a Town that is Known for its Natural Attractions and the Hospitality of a Cosmopolitan Citizenship

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GROUP OF BIRDS THAT DO GREAT DEAL OF GOOD

Friends of Farmers and Harm
Them But Little

DESTROY MANY INSECTS

Investigations Made by Govern-
ment Officials—Eleven Species
of Thrushes Within the United
States—Robin Most Common

That thrushes—the group of birds in which are included robins and bluebirds—do a great deal of good and very little harm to agriculture is the conclusion reached by investigators of the department who have carefully studied the food habits of these birds. Altogether there are within the limits of the United States 11 species of thrushes, 5 of which are commonly known as robins and bluebirds. The other 6 include the Townsend solitaire, the wood thrush, the veery, the gray cheek, the olive-backed, and the hermit thrushes.

The robins and bluebirds nest close to houses, and even the shyest of the other species are content with the seclusion of an acre or two of woodland or swamp. For this reason the thrushes are among the best known and most carefully protected of native American birds, and at times their numbers become so great that it is feared they will do much harm to crops and fruit. The recent investigations of the department, however, show that there is very little ground for this fear. On the other hand, they destroy such a vast number of insects each year that it is probable that without them many crops would suffer serious damage.

Of all the thrushes, the robin is probably the best known. It has been frequently accused of destroying fruits and berries, but it has now been ascertained that this only occurs in regions that are so thickly settled that there is no wild fruit upon which the robin may subsist. In some years the bird is a great pest in the olive orchards of California, but it is probable that they are driven to the orchards because of the scarcity of native berries at these times. Where a wild fruit is available, the birds seem to prefer this to the cultivated varieties.

Like the robin, the bluebird is very domestic, but unlike the robin, it does not prey upon any cultivated product or work any injury whatsoever to the fruit grower. During the fruit season in fact, five-sixths of its food consists of insects. It seems, therefore, that the common practice of encouraging the bluebird to nest near houses by placing convenient boxes in which it may build its home is thoroughly justified.

A detailed description of the habits of the robins and bluebirds is contained in Department Bulletin No. 171. Bulletin No. 280, which has just been published, takes up the habits of the six other species of the thrush group which are not quite so well known. These birds also feed principally on insects and fruit, but a great portion of the fruit which they consume is wild berries. Domestic fruits are eaten so sparingly by these species that the damage done is quite negligible.

The bird known as the Townsend solitaire is noted chiefly for its song, which is said to be at times the finest of any of the thrush family. This thrush, however, confines itself almost entirely to the mountains and gorges of the far West. The wood thrush,

ITALY FORMALLY DECLARES WAR ON BULGARIA

Serbian and Bulgarians Struggle
For Possession of Railroad

ADVANCE OF TEUTON ARMY

Fifteen Miles South of Belgrade—
French Troops Have Occupied
Strumitza—English Com-
mander Recalled.

London, England—Italy has declared war against Bulgaria, but the question whether she will send troops to join the British and French forces in Serbia remains as obscure as the results of the fighting raging on the Serbian eastern frontier. The Austro-German armies which occupied Belgrade appear to have advanced more than fifteen miles south of the city, but the outcome of the fighting between Bulgarians and Serbians along the important Saloniki-Nish railway cannot be summed up so easily.

At two points, the northernmost of which is Vranja, the Bulgarians assert they have reached this railroad, while to the south the Serbians are reported to have driven back the invaders.

Both Athens and Paris maintain that French troops have occupied Strumitza in southwestern Bulgaria, but there are available no official reports relating to the struggle in this quarter and none is expected until the fighting reaches a more conclusive stage.

Removal of Gen. Sir Ian Hamilton from command of the Dardanelles force was received in England with mixed feelings, coming on the heels of rumors of a possible withdrawal from the Gallipoli peninsula. In the best informed circles, however, the appointment as commander-in-chief of Maj. Gen. Sir Charles Munro is interpreted as an indication that the campaign will be prosecuted with renewed energy, as the country has great confidence in the new leader's ability.

The Punta Gorda Herald informs the Times-Union, which seems to have fallen into error on the subject, that Major S. A. Jonas, of Aberdeen, Miss., recently deceased, was the author of the celebrated poem, "Lines on a Confederate Bill." The Telegram recently made the same statement, in commenting on the death of Major Jonas, with whom the writer of these lines had a pleasant personal acquaintance. We understand that some other man is claiming the authorship of this classic of the great war, but there is no basis for his claim, Major Jonas wrote that poem as certainly as Edgar Allan Poe wrote "The Raven."—Lakeland Telegram.

on the other hand, is distributed over the eastern part of the United States, and is a frequenter of open groves and bushy pastures. This thrush is also noted for its sweet song, especially in the early evening. It does not nest in gardens or orchards, however, and is seldom seen about farm buildings, so that many people who are familiar with its song would not know the bird by sight. The wood thrush consumes a number of very harmful insects, such as the Colorado potato beetle and white grubs. The fruit which it eats it usually picks up from the ground instead of taking fresh from the tree. There is therefore no reason why the wood thrush should not be rigidly protected.—U. S. Department of Agriculture Weekly News Letter.

Little Things in Sanitation

Somewhere in the Bible there's an uncomplimentary allusion to the habit of straining at gnats and swallowing camels,—the pharisaical habit, which was not confined to Bible times, of overlooking the weightier matters of the law in the enforcement of its letter.

But it is impossible to imagine the inspired speaker as minimizing the importance of gnats. In health matters there is a wide variety of gnats that a good many of us—which most of us, in fact—don't pay much attention to. We build modern homes with every convenience and most of the luxuries, and we let the architect overlook the health part of it, which should make us live out our three score years and ten, and then some.

We don't clean out the family ice box once a month. We sleep with closed windows for fear of a draft. We eat too much, actually gorge ourselves, because the cook knows how to prepare our favorite dishes just the way we like them. We let the back yard get clogged up with rubbish that draws all the flies that the neighbors' scrap heaps fail to entertain. We let rats and mice get in and infect our homes, to say nothing of roaches and other disagreeable bugs, because we forget to guard against them when we first build our homes. We permit the mosquitoes to pester us because we don't take care that the screens over windows and doors are kept in condition. They come in with the flies through the little holes and ragged places and bring malaria and typhoid.

Ignoring the importance of the little things, perhaps because we don't realize the importance, or perhaps because we never knew how important they are, and before we wake up to the fact of our negligence, these same little things have become big and serious and real troubles begin.

There is a long list of DONT'S for the housekeeper:
Don't neglect the ventilation of your home; see that fresh air has

a constant and thorough sweep under and over and around and through your house.

Don't let your architect fail to make your home rat and mice proof by proper construction.

Don't shove the food left over from the family meals indiscriminately into the ice box. Don't put fruits and milk into the same compartment with meats, cooked or uncooked.

Don't fix up the nursery, or the room where the younger children spend most of their time, with a lot of rugs and hangings. A smooth, bare floor is a great deal better, for it doesn't collect and hold dirt and it can be wiped up often and thoroughly.

Don't let the rooms become too warm and the air impure. More colds are caught from impure air than from drafts.

Don't pile on too many coverings when you sleep. Too many is a lot worse than not enough.

Don't eat too much, no matter how good it is. The more the stomach is taxed beyond its normal capacity, the sooner it wears out and brings on the infirmities of old age, and in advanced years digestion usually is taxed to compensate for the poorer masticating process.

The doctors are constantly discovering new don'ts, which some of them declare are essential if we are to be normally healthful and strong. We occasionally are doubtful about some of them, at least so far as a personal application is concerned, but each of us by the time we have reached adult years should have a pretty careful inventory of our physical capacities. If then we have good sense and sufficient moral courage to regulate our lives by these known limitations, we have at least a fair chance to live as long as we can be of any particular use to the time when we might become nuisances to the world in general and to the family in particular.—State Board of Health Bulletin.

Gov. Gilchrist at St. Petersburg

The local Masonic lodge had a notable guest at the session last night, ex-Gov. Gilchrist being present. He is a former grand master of the state and one of the leading Masons in Florida. Gov. Gilchrist was in St. Petersburg in the interests of his candidacy for United States senator and was invited to attend the meeting. He made a short talk on Masonic work and the order.

Gov. Gilchrist was on Central avenue distributing his odd campaign literature. He met many voters and had the happy faculty of remembering the names of all the persons he met so that if he saw them again he would know them. He left St. Petersburg today for other parts of the county.

Gov. Gilchrist was the guest of Capt. and Mrs. Cramer B. Potter at dinner today. The former governor and Capt. Potter have been friends for several years. Capt. Potter was in the military service of the state and in that capacity came into contact with Gov. Gilchrist while the latter was governor. The friendship has lasted through many years.—St. Petersburg Independent, Oct. 6.

Judging by the news reports, it is much easier for the Mexican raiders to cross the Rio Grande from Mexico to Texas than from Texas to Mexico.

Seven Years is the Average

We cannot comprehend any greater punishment for life in the prison camps of Florida, or even solitary confinement. So we can not understand this harsh criticism of the jury in the Mendenhall trial.—Ocala Banner.

But did you ever hear of any convict, with enough money and friends to secure the services of a good lawyer, who served out a life term in a Florida prison camp unless he died early? It seems to be generally understood now that life imprisonment doesn't mean life imprisonment and that pardon or parole is sure after a few years service in stripes. That is probably the real reason for the criticism of the verdict in the Mendenhall case.—Lakeland Telegram.

Areadia News:—Bob Holley, Colonel Jordan and such fellows seem to be having a grand time in Jacksonville with the "press gang," and in the Times-Union Holley gets off some good dope about that "press gang." It seems that Colonel Jordan is attracting attention wherever he appears. The readers of the Punta Gorda Herald are going to hear of the Colonel's doings when he gets back from the metropolis.

Evidently it is the British intention to bag Bagdad.

GREAT THINGS THAT WERE SMALL AT BEGINNING

Some of the Most Valuable Imple-
ments of Science

VERY CURIOUS PARADOX

Bacteria Are at Once the Great-
est Friends and the Fiercest
Foes of Every Living Thing
on Earth.

Great things have small beginnings. A spectacle maker, Jan Leippersheim by name, living in Holland, invented a crude magnifying glass in 1608. Anton von Leuwenhoek, born in Delft, this day 1632, improved this clumsy toy and evolved a compound microscope which has become the most valuable sanitary tool yet devised by man. That first microscope was as far removed from the highpowered instrument of today as is the modern American from the original caveman. Yet by this faulty means, Leuwenhoek, naturalist, physician and botanist, discovered certain minute bodies which he called "little animals." He made drawings of these and today we know them for those useful friends and malignant enemies of man—bacteria.

We spend our days surrounded by another world, a living world of countless billions, invisible to the naked eye, silent, tireless, destroying the living, consuming the dead, useful in the sciences and arts, yet often followed by a train of sickness, suffering and death. A curious paradox this, yet bacteria are at once the greatest friends and the fiercest foes of every living thing. Not animals, as Leuwenhoek thought, but vegetables, bacteria consist of two classes, those which prey on living things and those which reduce to their original minerals, fluids and gases, every dead thing which they attack. They are of various shapes, round like marbles or straight like little sticks. They grow in clusters, chains and in pairs. They are ubiquitous. The dusty air, the earth and its waters, the interior of animals and plants all contain them. They cause the fermentation of foods, they make cheese, they produce disease and some of them when killed and injected into an animal protect it against the very disease which they would have produced if living. Many of them live as harmless creatures in the body of an animal for years, only to kill their host when the opportunity presents. Their study has given birth to a science, bacteriology, one of the foundation stones of public health.

Their mere presence does not necessarily produce disease. Recall the parable of the sower, some bacteria fall by the wayside, some fall upon stony places, and some fall in good ground and bring forth the fruit of suffering, perhaps of death. A normal, temperate life, free alike from the gluttony of idleness or overwork, the sound mind in the sound body, a cheerful, normal environment, these form the stony places in which bacteria take no root. The depraved appetites of mind and body, the dark and sordid atmosphere of penury, the nerve racking and strength undermining trades, these prepare the good ground.

The great weapon against bacteria is cleanliness. The mastery over premature death lies to a great measure in our own hands. Clean persons, clean cities, clean workshops and clean lives are the makers of public health. The U-

KEEP CITRUS ANTHRACNOSE UNDER CONTROL.

A Disease That is Caused by
Withertip Fungus

SOME METHODS OF CONTROL

Characteristics by Which Detect-
ed. Care is Necessary in Hand-
ling Fruit not to Distribute the
Fungus

Anthraco-nose of citrus fruits is caused by the withertip fungus. The first sign of disease is shown by small reddish spots, sometimes no larger than a pin head. These enlarge to sunken areas which may be whiteish and later turn brown or dark. The earlier stages are the most dangerous, according to H. E. Stevens, plant pathologist to the University of Florida Experiment Station, and the grower should take precaution to prevent the spread of the disease.

The disease is most virulent when in the small red-spot stage and it is capable of making rapid advances then. If precautions are not taken in these first stages the whole crop is apt to become infested. Methods of control are as follows: Prune out the dead branches and twigs which harbor the fungus. Avoid treatment that may reduce the foliage of the tree. When the spots appear spray with an ammoniacal solution of copper carbonate. Mix water with 8 ounces of pure copper carbonate to a thin paste. Add three pints of ammonia, 26 degrees Baume. Pour the whole into 50 gallons of water. Spray the fruits until they are thoroughly moist, but do not put on enough to make them drip. Keep the spray from the leaves and trunk as much as possible. Repeat in 10 days or two weeks. If necessary give a third spraying. From 2 to 4 weeks will pass before beneficial effects will be noticed.

An indication of the disease other than the spotting is dropping of fruits. This is not sufficient evidence to justify spraying, however, because other troubles are manifested by dropping. Examine the fallen fruits for the spotting or sunken areas. Conditions which favor the spread and development of the disease are warm moist weather. Warm muggy days are especially favorable.

Trouble rarely occurs before the fruits begin to color. For this reason growers should be particularly careful in picking infected fruit. The early stages will continue to develop after the fruit is picked and are apt to cause the fruit to rot in transit. No fruit should be shipped before the trees are rid of the disease. Handling will distribute the fungus to clean fruit, not only in the immediate grove but in the packing house as well.

The Florida Federation of Women's Clubs meets in DeLand, Florida, November 16, 17, 18 and 19. The opening meeting will be on the evening of the 16. The program is nearly all arranged, and promises to be exceedingly interesting. It is to be hoped that all clubs will be well represented with full delegations.—Clearwater Sun.

nited States Public Health Service and other sanitary bodies of this country are gradually bringing these facts home to the general public. In this way cleanliness is becoming more general, and the span of life in America is gradually being lengthened. All of which is largely due to the microscope.